

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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**Project Creator:** Dan Westermeyer

**Field Office:** Stillwater

**Lead Office:** Sierra Front Field Office

**Case File/Project Number:** SRP-LLNVC02000-11005

**Applicable Categorical Exclusion** 516 DM 11.9: H. Recreation Management (1): Issuance of SRP's for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.

**NEPA Number:** DOI-BLM-NV-2011-C010-0507-CX

**Project Name:** Sierra Trail Dogs Dual Sport Motorcycle Ride

**Project Description:** Permit Renewal: Sierra Trail Dogs (STD) is proposing to renew their SRP to conduct a two day (June 11-12, 2011) motorcycle tour (dual sport ride) from Wellington, Nevada to Hawthorne, Nevada. The SFFO is the lead office with SFO providing authorization. Participants would overnight in Hawthorne then ride back to Wellington the second day. The proposed routes traverse BLM SFO (~39 miles), BLM SFFO (~ 37 miles), Bishop BLM (13 miles) and USFS lands under separate permit from the Bridgeport Ranger District. The BLM SFFO is the lead agency for the proposed BLM permit. SFO will coordinate with Bishop BLM. Previous NEPA documentation used by both agencies was a CX. Each BLM Field Office is responsible for their NEPA documentation.

The Stillwater F.O. course is located on routes authorized under previous STD SRPs and would be located on existing bladed roads with no use of trails. The event attracts up to 150 participants with no spectators. The nature of the event is geared towards orienteering where the participants, using scroll maps and GPS, would navigate their way along a predetermined route to their destination point. Participants would ride in small groups spread out along the route. The event is non-competitive and is not a race. The motorcycles are typically four-stroke, street legal and outfitted for off-highway touring, not racing. This group has conducted this event under BLM permit and USFS authorization and in compliance with permit stipulations since 1997.

**Applicant Name:** Michael Kaveney, Sierra Trail Dogs

**Project Location:** Mineral County E-SE of Hawthorne

For the NV BLM event route, the following township, range and sections apply within Mineral County. The remainder of the course is on the NV BLM Sierra Front F.O., CA BLM Bishop F.O. or Humboldt-Tioyabe National Forest:

T10N, R28E, Sec. 18, 19, 30, 31

T09N, R28E, Sec. 6, 7, 17, 18, 20, 29, 31, 32

T08N, R28E, Sec. 6, 7, 18, 19, 30, 31

T07N, R28E, Sec 6, 19, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34

T06N, R28E, Sec 1, 2, 3,

T06N, R29E, Sec 6, 7

The course crosses the following 1:24:000 quads on NV BLM lands:

Maps for segments reviewed for the Stillwater Field Office: Butler Mountain, Nevada, Provisional Edition (PE) 1988; Copper Canyon, Nevada, PE 1989; Corey Peak, Nevada, PE 1989; Mitchel Spring, Nevada, PE 1989; Mount Grant, Nevada, PE 1989; and Ninemile Ranch, Nevada, PE 1989.

## **BLM Acres for the Project Area: 39 miles**

### **Land Use Plan Conformance:**

Section 8 – REC-2: Desired Outcomes, 1: “Provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities on public land under the administration of the Carson City Field Office.”

Section 8 – REC-2: Land Use Allocations, 1: “All public lands under CCFO jurisdiction are designated open to Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use unless they are specifically restricted or closed.”

Section 8 – REC-6: Administrative Actions, 4: “On public land designated open for off highway vehicles, there will generally be no restrictions on use. Organized competitive OHV events have been allowed in Mason Valley, Wilson Canyon, Hungry Valley OHV Area, Moon Rocks, Lemmon Valley MX Area, Dead Camel Mountains, Salt Wells Area, Wassuk Range and in the Frontier 500 and Carson Rally OHV corridors. Organized events will be handled on a case-by-case basis through the Special Recreation Permit review and Environmental review process. Organized activity is generally restricted to existing roads and trail

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**Name of Plan:** Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan (2001)

**Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances:** The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria: (Specialist review: initial in appropriate box)

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		gd
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (Archeology, Recreation, Wilderness, Wildlife, Range by allotment, Water Quality)		cs JW JMC w/ tips
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (PEC)		JMZ
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (PEC)		JMZ
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (PEC)		JMZ
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (PEC)		JMZ
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (Archeology)		JMC - tips
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? (Wildlife)		g
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (PEC and Archeology)		JMC
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? ((PEC)		JMZ
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)? (Archeology)		JMC
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)? (Range-Jill Devaurs)		gd

## SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:

During ID Team review of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Planning Environmental Coordinator, Steve Kramer: *SK 5/16/11*  
Public Health and Safety/Grazing/Noxious Weeds, Jill Devaurs: *JD 5-16-11*  
Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC, Dan Westermeyer: *DW 5/16/11*  
Wildlife/T&E (BLM Sensitive Species), John Wilson: *JW 5-16-11*  
Archeology, Susan McCabe: *SMC 5/16/11*  
Water Quality, Gabe Venegas: *GV 5/16/11*  
Soils, Jill Devaurs/Linda Appel/Chelsy Simerson: *CS 5/16/11*

**CONCLUSION:** Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

Approved by:

*Teresa J. Knutson*  
Teresa J. Knutson  
Field Manager  
Stillwater Field Office

*05/18/2011*  
(date)